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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/568,968

Applicant(s)

OKUZAWA, NOZOMU

Examiner

ALEXANDRIA Y. BROMELL

Art Unit

2167

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 April 2009.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 11 - 33 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 11 - 33 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 February 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 and 11 - 33 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

The new ground of rejection is necessary to address claim amendments from Applicant's reply dated April 14, 2009.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and 11 – 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peter Wilens (U.S. Patent 7,092,952), hereinafter, "Wilens" in view of Hirohisa Naito et al. (20010008404), hereinafter, "Naito."

With respect to claim 1, Wilens teaches reception means for receiving a plurality of taste information that represents respective tastes of a plurality of users from a plurality of terminal apparatuses of the plurality of users (i.e. subscriber registers and stores personal profile, which is received and stored in database, column 2, lines 59-61), storage means for storing the received plurality of taste information and group information associated with the plurality of users (i.e. database stores user profiles which have preferences from many subscribers, claim 1, the profiles identify subscribers that have common preferences, or attributes, column 2, lines 54-61), search means for

searching for at least two taste information having a resemblance to each other from the plurality of taste information stored in the storage means (i.e. users can search to match themselves with other users, column 9, lines 31-50, and users are matched based on their personal tastes and preferences, column 3, lines 9-15) and transmission means for transmitting the retrieved taste information or group information to a terminal apparatus corresponding to the second user of the at least two taste information (i.e. computer system transmits information about users taste, which may be biographical information, or information about personal preference, column 2, lines 66-67, and column 3, line 1). Wilens does not explicitly teach that information is only received about a specific user, not associated with another user.

However, Naito teaches retrieval means for retrieving at least taste information or group information associated with a first user of the at least two taste information searched by the search means (i.e. information is searched for based on a user's taste using keywords, a rule base, or correlation, not with respect to tastes of other users, paragraph [0087]), the retrieved taste information or group information not being associated with a second user of the at least two taste information (i.e. the retrieved user information is based on information specific to the user, paragraph [0087]).

Wilens and Naito are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of searching for, processing, and transmitting user relevant data. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Wilens with the teachings of Naito in order to enable effective utilization of information by adjusting information delivery time according to user's data

assimilation needs (Naito, paragraph [0025]) and to search for, process, and transmit user relevant data (Naito, paragraph [0087]).

With respect to claim 11, Wilens teaches a reception step of receiving a plurality of taste information that represent respective tastes of a plurality of users from a plurality of terminal apparatuses of the plurality of users (i.e. subscriber registers and stores personal profile in database, column 2, lines 59-61), a search step of searching for at least two taste information having a resemblance to each other from the plurality of taste information stored in a predetermined storage unit (i.e. users can search to match themselves with other users, column 9, lines 31-50, and users are matched based on their personal tastes and preferences, column 3, lines 9-15, and database stores profiles from many subscribers, claim 1), and a transmission step of transmitting at least taste information or group information associated with a first user of the at least two taste information searched in the step to a terminal apparatus corresponding to a second user of the at least two taste information. Wilens does not explicitly teach that information is only received about a specific user, not associated with another user.

However, Naito teaches that the transmitted taste information or group information not being associated with the second user of the at least two taste information (i.e. the retrieved user information is based on information specific to the user, paragraph [0087]).

Wilens and Naito are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of searching for, processing, and transmitting user relevant data. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify

the teachings of Wilens with the teachings of Naito in order to enable effective utilization of information by adjusting information delivery time according to user's data assimilation needs (Naito, paragraph [0025]) and to search for, process, and transmit user relevant data (Naito, paragraph [0087]).

With respect to claim 12, Wilens teaches the transmission step transmits at least the group information that represents groups that the plurality of users belong to and that is associated with the first user of the at least two taste information to the terminal apparatus of the second user (i.e. group creator may set the number of group members, who are matched to join the group by specific criteria or attributes, column 6, lines 29-39).

With respect to claim 13, Wilens teaches the reception step receives a part of the plurality of taste information as search key information (i.e. when user sets up profile, they input personal information and preferences that are used as search keys for the system, column 8, lines 38-51), the search step searches for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information of the plurality of users stored in the predetermined storage unit as the second taste information having the resemblance to the first taste information (i.e. in order to match taste information or create a group, preferences, or stored search keys are compared, column 8, lines 38-51, and column 9, lines 1-10), and the transmission step transmits at least the group information that represents groups that the plurality of users belong to and is associated with the first user of the at least two taste information at least two taste information as the attribute information to the terminal apparatus of the user (i.e. information is

transmitted on the computer about the groups that a user belongs to, and other groups that are available based on user preferences, column 8, lines 38-51).

With respect to claim 14, Wilens teaches the transmission step transmits at least the taste information of the first user and the group information that represents groups that the plurality of users belong to and that is associated with the first user of the at least two taste information to the terminal apparatus of the second user (i.e. group members have similar specified preferences, or tastes, which determine if the user has been admitted to the group, column 9, lines 31-36).

With respect to claim 15, Wilens teaches the reception step receives a part of the plurality of taste information as search key information (i.e. when user sets up profile, they input personal information and preferences that are used as search keys for the system, column 8, lines 38-51), the search step searches for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information of the plurality of users stored in the predetermined storage unit (i.e. in order to match taste information or create a group, preferences, or stored search keys are compared, column 8, lines 38-51, and column 9, lines 1-10), and the transmission step transmits the taste information of the first user and the group information that represents groups that the plurality of users belong to and that is associated with the first user of the at least two taste information to the terminal apparatus of the second user (i.e. information is transmitted on the computer about the groups that a user belongs to, and other groups that are available based on user preferences, column 8, lines 38-51).

With respect to claim 16, Wilens teaches a transmission step of transmitting first taste information that represents the taste of a user to a predetermined apparatus that stores the plurality of taste information that represent respectively the tastes of a plurality of users (i.e. user accesses database that has profiles of other users stored, claim 1), and after searching for the at least two taste information having a resemblance to each other from the plurality of taste information stored therein (i.e. when users set up their profiles, they specify their preferences, or tastes, which allow the users to gain membership to a group, column 8, lines 38-67, and user may search for users that have similar attributes, so that information is transmitted between the server database and the user, column 9, lines 9-14). Wilens does not explicitly teach that information is only received about a specific user, not associated with another user.

However, Naito teaches a reception step of receiving taste information or group information associated with a second user of at least two taste information, the received taste information or group information not being associated with the first user of the at least two taste information and being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the taste information at least transmits to the terminal apparatus corresponding to the first user of the at least two taste information (i.e. information is searched for based on a user's taste using keywords, a rule base, or correlation, not with respect to tastes of other users, paragraph [0087]).

Wilens and Naito are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of searching for, processing, and transmitting user relevant data. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify

the teachings of Wilens with the teachings of Naito in order to enable effective utilization of information by adjusting information delivery time according to user's data assimilation needs (Naito, paragraph [0025]) and to search for, process, and transmit user relevant data (Naito, paragraph [0087]).

With respect to claim 17, Wilens teaches the reception step receives the group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and is associated with the second user of the at least two taste information, the group information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the first taste information at least transmits after searching (i.e. users specify personal preferences or tastes in their profile, and are matched with groups that have the same characteristic requirements, column 8, line 38 – column 9, line 10).

With respect to claim 18, Wilens teaches the transmission step transmits a part of the taste information as search key information to the predetermined apparatus (i.e. users set specific keys, or preferences, that are stored in the computer database, column 9, lines 1-10), and the reception step receives the group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that is associated with the second user of the at least two taste information, the group information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the search key information at least transmits after searching for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored therein (i.e. members are admitted to a group if they have similar tastes, or preferences, and computer database

receives specific preferences in order to match individual users with a group, column 6, lines 8-67).

With respect to claim 19, Wilens teaches the reception step receives at least the taste information and the group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that is associated with the second user of the at least two taste information, the taste information and the group information being information of the second user being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the taste information of the first user at least transmits after searching (i.e. users are added to groups when their preferences, or tastes fit the matching criteria for group membership, column 7, lines 25-46).

With respect to claim 20, Wilens teaches the transmission step transmits a part of the taste information as search key information to the predetermined apparatus (i.e. user key specifies user preferences and tastes, column 9, lines 1-10), and the reception step receives at least the taste information of the second user and the group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that is associated with the second user of the second taste information, the taste information and the group information of the second user being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the search key information at least transmits after searching for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored therein (i.e. users input their personal profiles with preferences and tastes, and groups are created to match users with similar tastes, column 8, line 38-column 9, line 10).

With respect to claim 21, Wilens teaches a reception unit configured to receive a plurality of taste information that represent respective tastes of a plurality of users from a plurality of terminal apparatuses of the plurality of users (i.e. subscriber registers and stores personal profile, which is received and stored in database, column 2, lines 59-61, and when user sets up profile, they input personal information and preferences that are used as search keys for the system, column 8, lines 38-51), a storage unit configured to store the received plurality of taste information and group information associated with the plurality of other users (i.e. database stores user profiles which have preferences from many subscribers, claim 1, the profiles identify subscribers that have common preferences, or attributes, column 2, lines 54-61), a search unit configured to search for at least two taste information having a resemblance to each other from the plurality of taste information stored in the storage unit (i.e. users can search to match themselves with other users, column 9, lines 31-50, and users are matched based on their personal tastes and preferences, column 3, lines 9-15), and a transmission unit configured to transmit the retrieved taste information or group information to a terminal apparatus corresponding to the second user of at least two taste information (i.e. computer system transmits information about users taste, which may be biographical information, or information about personal preference, column 2, lines 66-67, and column 3, line 1). Wilens does not explicitly teach that information is only received about a specific user, not associated with another user.

However, Naito teaches a retrieval unit configured to retrieve at least taste information or group information associated with a first user of the at least two taste

information searched by the search unit (i.e. information is searched for based on a user's taste using keywords, a rule base, or correlation, not with respect to tastes of other users, paragraph [0087]), the retrieved taste information or group information not being associated with a second user of the at least two taste information (i.e. the retrieved user information is based on information specific to the user, paragraph [0087]).

Wilens and Naito are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of searching for, processing, and transmitting user relevant data. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Wilens with the teachings of Naito in order to enable effective utilization of information by adjusting information delivery time according to user's data assimilation needs (Naito, paragraph [0025]) and to search for, process, and transmit user relevant data (Naito, paragraph [0087]).

With respect to claim 22, Wilens teaches the transmission unit is configured to transmit at the least group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that is associated with the first user of the second taste information to the terminal apparatus of the second user (i.e. information is transmitted on the computer about the groups that a user belongs to, and other groups that are available based on user preferences, column 8, lines 38-51, and (i.e. group members have similar specified preferences, or tastes, which determine if the user has been admitted to the group, column 9, lines 31-36).

With respect to claim 23, Wilens teaches the reception unit is configured to receive a part of the first taste information that represents the taste of the user from the terminal apparatus of the user as search key information (i.e. subscriber registers and stores personal profile, which is received and stored in database, column 2, lines 59-61, and in order to match taste information or create a group, preferences, or stored search keys are compared, column 8, lines 38-51, and column 9, lines 1-10)), the search unit is configured to search for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored in the storage unit as the second taste information having the resemblance to the first taste information (i.e. users can search to match themselves with other users, column 9, lines 31-50, and users are matched based on their personal tastes and preferences, column 3, lines 9-15, and in order to match taste information or create a group, preferences, or stored search keys are compared, column 8, lines 38-51, and column 9, lines 1-10), and the transmission unit is configured to transmit at least the group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that is associated with the first user of the at least two taste information to the terminal apparatus of the second user (i.e. computer system transmits information about users taste, which may be biographical information, or information about personal preference, column 2, lines 66-67, and column 3, line 1, and group members have similar specified preferences, or tastes, which determine if the user has been admitted to the group, column 9, lines 31-36).

With respect to claim 24, Wilens teaches the transmission unit is configured to transmit at least the taste information of the first user and the group information that

represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that is associated with the first user of the at least two taste information to the terminal apparatus of the second user (i.e. information is transmitted on the computer about the groups that a user belongs to, and other groups that are available based on user preferences, column 8, lines 38-51, and group members have similar specified preferences, or tastes, which determine if the user has been admitted to the group, column 9, lines 31-36).

With respect to claim 25, Wilens teaches the reception unit is configured to receive a part of the plurality of taste information (i.e. subscriber registers and stores personal profile, which is received and stored in database, column 2, lines 59-61, and in order to match taste information or create a group, preferences, or stored search keys are compared, column 8, lines 38-51, and column 9, lines 1-10), the search unit is configured to search for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored in the storage means (i.e. users can search to match themselves with other users, column 9, lines 31-50, and users are matched based on their personal tastes and preferences, column 3, lines 9-15, and in order to match taste information or create a group, preferences, or stored search keys are compared, column 8, lines 38-51, and column 9, lines 1-10), and the transmission unit is configured to transmit at least the at least two taste information and group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that corresponds to the second taste information as the attribute information to the terminal apparatus of the user (i.e. computer system transmits information about users taste, which may be biographical information, or information about personal preference, column 2, lines 66-

67, and column 3, line 1, and information is transmitted on the computer about the groups that a user belongs to, and other groups that are available based on user preferences, column 8, lines 38-51).

With respect to claim 26, Wilens teaches a transmission unit configured to transmit taste information that represents a taste of a user to a predetermined apparatus that stores a plurality of taste information that represent respective tastes of a plurality of users (i.e. subscriber registers and stores personal profile, which is received and stored in database, column 2, lines 59-61). Wilens does not explicitly teach that information is only received about a specific user, not associated with another user.

However, Naito teaches a reception unit configured to receive taste information or group information associated with a second user of at least two taste information (i.e. information is searched for based on a user's taste using keywords, a rule base, or correlation, not with respect to tastes of other users, paragraph [0087]), the received taste information or group information not being associated with the first user of the at least two taste information and being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the plurality of taste information at least transmits to the terminal apparatus corresponding to the first user of the at least two taste information, after searching for the at least two taste information having a resemblance to each other from the plurality of taste information stored therein (i.e. the retrieved user information is based on information specific to the user, paragraph [0087]).

Wilens and Naito are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of searching for, processing, and transmitting user relevant data. At the time

of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Wilens with the teachings of Naito in order to enable effective utilization of information by adjusting information delivery time according to user's data assimilation needs (Naito, paragraph [0025]) and to search for, process, and transmit user relevant data (Naito, paragraph [0087]).

With respect to claim 27, Wilens teaches the reception unit is configured to receive the group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that is associated with the second user of the at least two taste information (i.e. when user sets up profile, they input personal information and preferences that are used as search keys for the system, column 8, lines 38-51), the group information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the first taste information at least transmits after searching for the second taste information having the resemblance to the first taste information from the plurality of taste information stored therein (i.e. users specify personal preferences or tastes in their profile, and are matched with groups that have the same characteristic requirements, column 8, line 38 – column 9, line 10).

With respect to claim 28, Wilens teaches the transmission unit is configured to transmit a part of the first taste information that represents the taste of the user as search key information to the predetermined apparatus that stores the plurality of taste information that represent the respective tastes of the plurality of other users (i.e. computer system transmits information about users taste, which may be biographical information, or information about personal preference, column 2, lines 66-67, and

column 3, line 1), and the reception unit is configured to receive the group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that is associated with the second user of the at least two taste information (i.e. when user sets up profile, they input personal information and preferences that are used as search keys for the system, column 8, lines 38-51), the group information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the search key information at least transmits after searching for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored therein as the second taste information having the resemblance to the first taste information (i.e. users specify personal preferences or tastes in their profile, and are matched with groups that have the same characteristic requirements, column 8, line 38 – column 9, line 10).

With respect to claim 29, Wilens teaches the reception unit is configured to receive at least the taste information of the second user and the group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that is associated with the second user of the at least two taste information (i.e. when user sets up profile, they input personal information and preferences that are used as search keys for the system, column 8, lines 38-51), the taste information and the group information of the second user being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the taste information of the first user at least transmits after searching (i.e. users specify personal preferences or tastes in their profile, and are matched with groups that have the same characteristic requirements, column 8, line 38 – column 9, line 10).

With respect to claim 30, Wilens teaches the transmission unit is configured to transmit a part of the first taste information that represents the taste of the user as search key information to the predetermined apparatus that stores the plurality of taste information that represent the respective tastes of the plurality of other users (i.e. computer system transmits information about users taste, which may be biographical information, or information about personal preference, column 2, lines 66-67, and column 3, line 1, and in order to match taste information or create a group, preferences, or stored search keys are compared, column 8, lines 38-51, and column 9, lines 1-10), and the reception unit is configured to receive at least the taste information of the second user and the group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that is associated with the second user of the at least two taste information (i.e. when user sets up profile, they input personal information and preferences that are used as search keys for the system, column 8, lines 38-51), the taste information and the group information of the second user being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the search key information at least transmits after searching for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored therein as the second taste information having the resemblance to the first taste information (i.e. in order to match taste information or create a group, preferences, or stored search keys are compared, column 8, lines 38-51, and column 9, lines 1-10).

With respect to claim 31, Wilens teaches receiving first taste information that represent respective tastes of a plurality of users from a plurality of terminal

apparatuses of the plurality of users (i.e. subscriber registers and stores personal profile, which is received and stored in database, column 2, lines 59-61), storing the received plurality of taste information and group information associated with the plurality of other users (i.e. database stores user profiles which have preferences from many subscribers, claim 1, the profiles identify subscribers that have common preferences, or attributes, column 2, lines 54-61), searching for at least two taste information having a resemblance to the first taste information from the plurality of taste information stored in the storing (i.e. users can search to match themselves with other users, column 9, lines 31-50, and users are matched based on their personal tastes and preferences, column 3, lines 9-15), and transmitting the retrieved taste information or group information to the terminal apparatus corresponding to the second user of the at least two taste information (i.e. computer system transmits information about users taste, which may be biographical information, or information about personal preference, column 2, lines 66-67, and column 3, line 1). Wilens does not explicitly teach that information is only received about a specific user, not associated with another user.

However, Naito teaches retrieving at least taste information or group information associated with a first user of the at least two taste information searched in the searching (i.e. information is searched for based on a user's taste using keywords, a rule base, or correlation, not with respect to tastes of other users, paragraph [0087]), the retrieved taste information or group information not being associated with a second user of the at least two taste information (i.e. the retrieved user information is based on information specific to the user, paragraph [0087]).

Wilens and Naito are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of searching for, processing, and transmitting user relevant data. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Wilens with the teachings of Naito in order to enable effective utilization of information by adjusting information delivery time according to user's data assimilation needs (Naito, paragraph [0025]) and to search for, process, and transmit user relevant data (Naito, paragraph [0087]).

With respect to claim 32, Wilens teaches reception means for receiving a plurality of taste information that represents a taste of a user from a terminal apparatus of the user (i.e. when user sets up profile, they input personal information and preferences that are used as search keys for the system, column 8, lines 38-51), storage means for storing a plurality of taste information and group information associated with the plurality of other users (i.e. database stores user profiles which have preferences from many subscribers, claim 1, the profiles identify subscribers that have common preferences, or attributes, column 2, lines 54-61), search means for searching for second taste information having a resemblance to the first taste information from the plurality of taste information stored in the storage means (i.e. users can search to match themselves with other users, column 9, lines 31-50, and users are matched based on their personal tastes and preferences, column 3, lines 9-15), and transmission means for transmitting taste information or group information associated with a first user of the at least two taste information to the terminal apparatus corresponding to a second user of the at least two taste information (i.e. computer system transmits information about users

taste, which may be biographical information, or information about personal preference, column 2, lines 66-67, and column 3, line 1). Wilens does not explicitly teach that information is only received about a specific user, not associated with another user.

However, Naito teaches when the reception means receives taste information from one of the plurality of users, wherein the transmitted taste information or group information is not associated with the second user of the at least two taste information (i.e. the retrieved user information is based on information specific to the user, paragraph [0087]).

Wilens and Naito are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of searching for, processing, and transmitting user relevant data. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Wilens with the teachings of Naito in order to enable effective utilization of information by adjusting information delivery time according to user's data assimilation needs (Naito, paragraph [0025]) and to search for, process, and transmit user relevant data (Naito, paragraph [0087]).

With respect to claim 33, Wilens teaches transmission means for transmitting first taste information that represents a taste of a user to a server (i.e. subscriber registers and stores personal profile, which is received and stored in database, column 2, lines 59-61, accessed by web servers, column 4, lines 23-30), the taste information or group information being transmitted to a terminal apparatus corresponding to the first user of the at least two taste information (i.e. when user sets up profile, they input personal information and preferences that are used as search keys for the system, column 8,

lines 38-51), and registration means for registering the received taste information or group information as said first user's taste information or group information, wherein the at least two taste information have a resemblance to each other and are searched by the server from a plurality of taste information that represent respective tastes of a plurality of users stored in the server (i.e. server is used to store and access subscriber information, with user profiles and groups, column 4, lines 23-50) and the received taste information or group information is not associated with the first user of the at least two taste information. Wilens does not explicitly teach that information is only received about a specific user, not associated with another user.

However, Naito teaches reception means for receiving at least taste information or group information associated with a second user of at least two taste information , from the server (i.e. information is searched for based on a user's taste using keywords, a rule base, or correlation, not with respect to tastes of other users, paragraph [0087]).

Wilens and Naito are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of searching for, processing, and transmitting user relevant data. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Wilens with the teachings of Naito in order to enable effective utilization of information by adjusting information delivery time according to user's data assimilation needs (Naito, paragraph [0025]) and to search for, process, and transmit user relevant data (Naito, paragraph [0087]).

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALEXANDRIA Y. BROMELL whose telephone number is (571)270-3034. The examiner can normally be reached on M - R 9 - 3.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John R. Cottingham can be reached on 571-272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Alexandria Y Bromell/
Examiner, Art Unit 2167
June 10, 2009

/Shahid Al Alam/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2162